

# NEW THINGS STRANGE & CURIOUS.

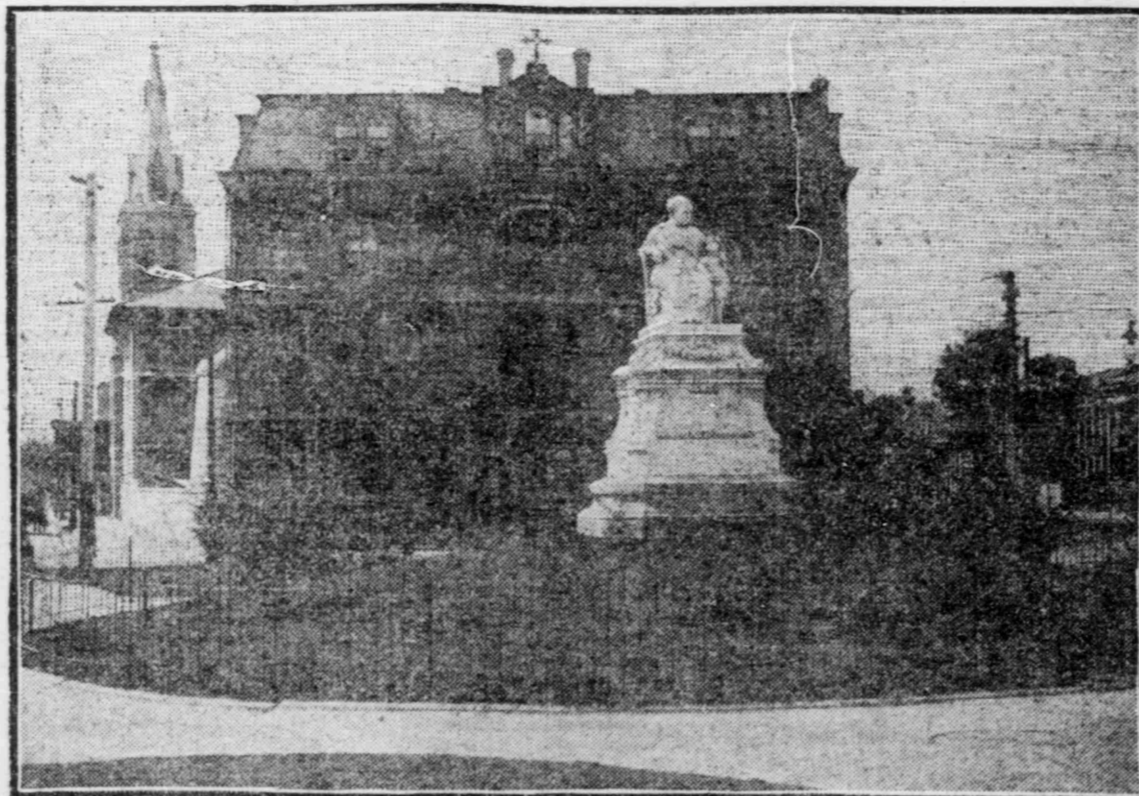
## MUMMIED HEADS OF PERU.

Some of the tribes that live in the northern part of Peru have very strange customs. One of these is to mummify and preserve the heads of such enemies as they have overthrown in battle. The heads are first prepared by boiling until the skin can be easily stripped off. It is then stuffed with straw and dried in smoke until it looks like a mask, or ebony carving. The hair is

well preserved, and the eye sockets are filled with clay and painted. The teeth are extracted and worn as a necklace about the victor's neck. The strings in the upper lip represent the number of enemies the owner has made way with. The heads are carefully guarded, as the women despise a man who comes home from war without at least one.



## FIRST STATUE TO A WOMAN.



New Orleans bears the honor of erecting the first statue in honor of a woman in the United States. The monument stands in Margaret Place, at the intersection of Camp and Prytanla Streets. It commemorates the charities of Margaret Haughery, a woman reared in poverty, who accumulated a fortune in the milk and bakery business. She spent freely in

the care and help of the poor in the city, and when she died her money was divided among the charitable institutions of New Orleans. Margaret was a young, ignorant woman when she lost her little boy, and, although she had but servant's wages, she began at once to spend her money for the children of the poor about her. She used to carry bread and milk to

the orphan asylum when she had no money to give, and no matter how little money she possessed she divided with those who were poorer than she. When she died the people of New Orleans erected this statue in her memory. Margaret is represented in the woolen shawl and cotton dress familiar to residents of the city for so many years, with a little child by her side.

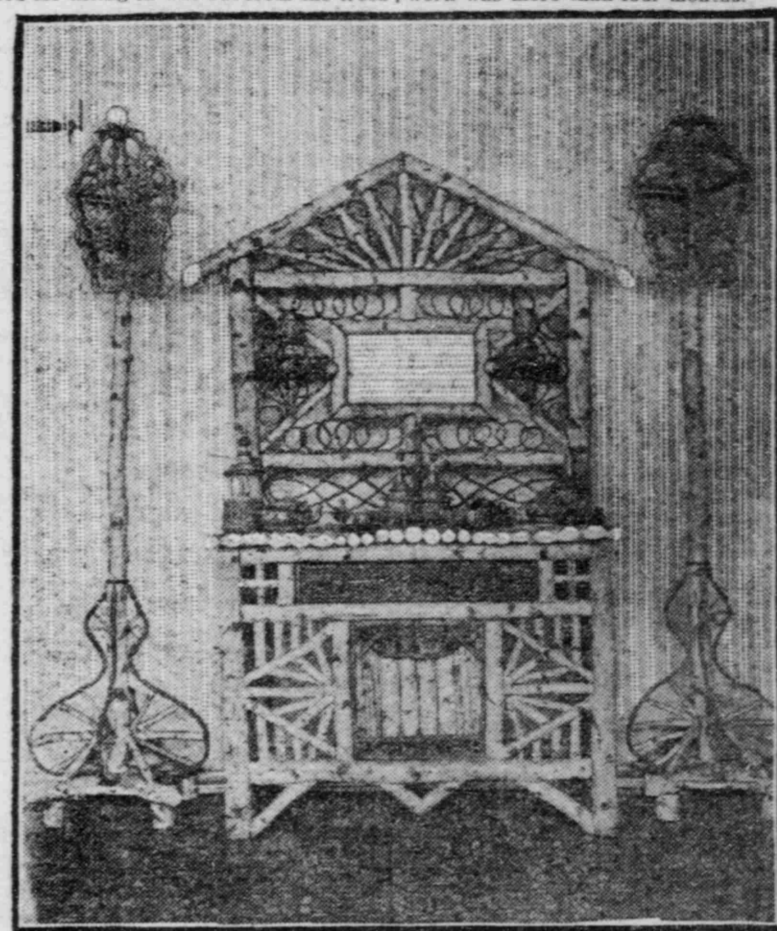
## AN ODD RUSTIC BUFFET.

This rustic buffet was designed and made by H. C. Somers while sojourning for three years in the Catskill Mountains out of 417 pieces of natural white birch and wild grapevine, spruce, elm, pine and hemlock. The framework is made of wild grapevine, that grows in abundance around the tall pines on Blackhead Mountain, four miles southwest of Cairo, and the silvery white birch was cut out of the low lands lying between Purling and Round Top Mountains.

All the elm, spruce, pine and hemlock used for filling in was cut from the trees

growing on top of Gay Head, near South Cairo. The drawer is covered with pine and hemlock, and the knobs are hand made, of elm, gathered from High Peak, near East Windham, 3,500 feet altitude. The lampposts on each side of the buffet are made of the same material, and, when lighted up with a red globed lamp, give a most beautiful effect to the dining room.

The service seen on top of this buffet is likewise made of the most beautiful pieces of different woods. The time consumed in making the three pieces of work was more than four months.



## Witty Scotch Dame.

An old woman was recently summoned as a witness before a court in Scotland, and, after she was sworn, the judge, noticing that she spoke in a very low tone, politely requested her to raise her voice so that she might be heard better. Her reply was that she could not raise it conveniently, and that she could not remove it altogether without taking off her hat. Thereupon the judge politely suggested that she take her hat off, but she answered that she would not do so, and that there was no law which could compel her to uncover her head.

At this the judge became angry, and remarked: "My good woman, since you know the law so well, you ought to come up here, and take your seat beside me."

"Oh, no," was her reply: "there are quite enough old women on the bench already."

## Sleeps on Spikes.

Many are the fakirs in Benares, but it is doubtful if any one of them excites as much astonishment as the man who voluntarily submits to a kind of torture which is decidedly sensational and novel. Instead of reclining, like other mortals, on an ordinary couch, he stretches himself daily in the presence of a wondering throng on a plank bed which is studded with a forest of sharp spikes.

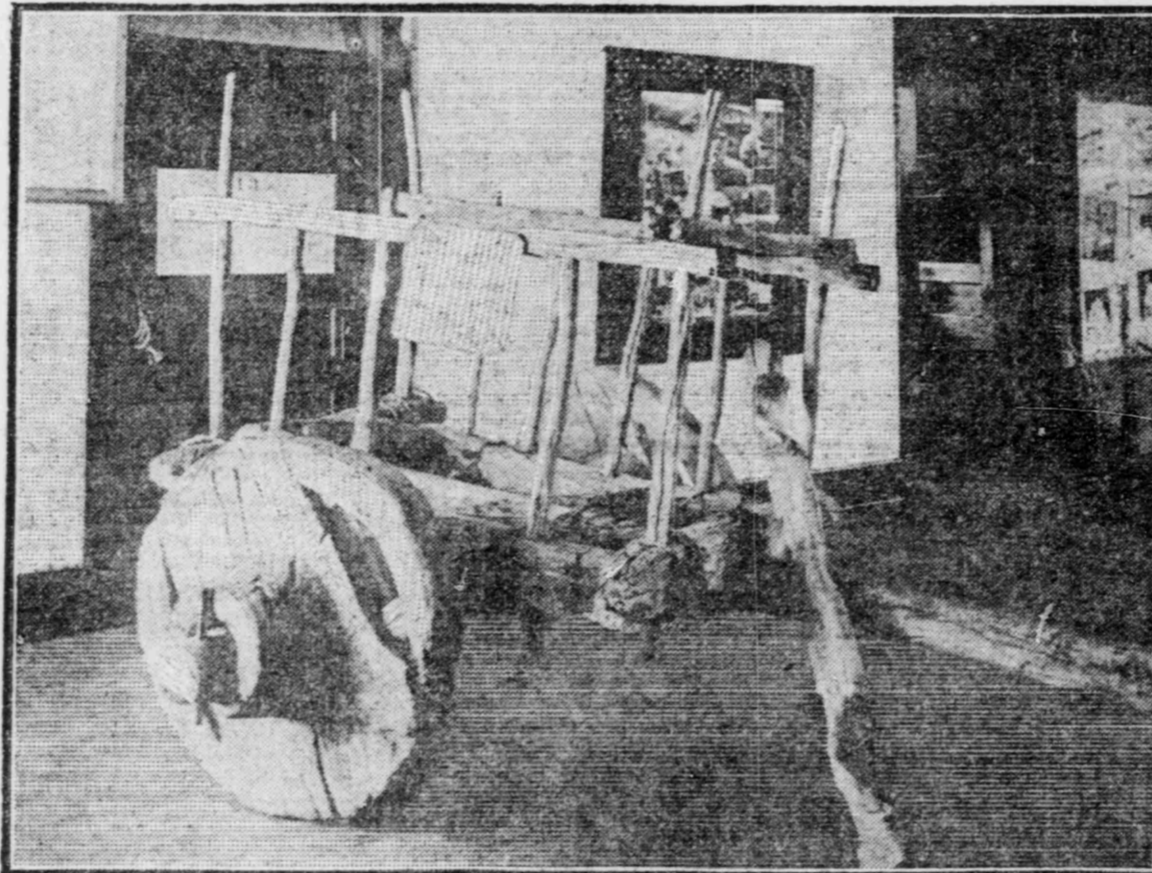
Stoically he endures his suffering in silence; indeed, the expression on his face seems to indicate that he rather enjoys his uncomfortable position.

## Anti-Drink Crusade.

In Denmark a curious method is now adopted for the purpose of preventing persons from getting drunk. The police have simply notified the saloon keepers throughout the country that those among them who at any time sell liquor to persons who are intoxicated will not only be held responsible for any damage which the drunkards may do to persons or property, but will also be obliged to pay for sending them home in carriages, as well as for medical attendance, if necessary.

In every case it is the saloonkeeper in whose place the intoxicated person has procured the last glass of liquor who is held responsible, and for this reason most of the saloonkeepers are now taking very good care not to furnish drink to anyone who shows the slightest signs of intoxication.

## ANCESTOR OF THE VICTORIA.



The cart in the illustration represents a type still in use among the poor of Mexico. Neither nails, bolts, nor metal of any description is employed in its construction, each part being mortised and held in place by rawhide thongs so steeped in teas and twisted as to have the strength of iron bands. The bed of the cart is made of open cross sections of mesquite wood as a solid bed of the

necessary thickness, coupled with wheels of solid oak, thirty-six inches in circumference by six in thickness. When needed matings cover the open work of the bed.

The pole runs the entire length of the cart. The hubs are one with the wheels, the whole fashioned from circular slices of oak or sycamore trees. The draft animals, which usually are oxen—though

it is no uncommon sight in Mexico today to see an ox on one side the pole and a donkey, one-third his size, on the other—are harnessed by means of the stick leaning against the front of the cart.

The cart in the illustration is reputed to be more than 200 years old. This is easily credible, considering the dry atmosphere in which it has spent its days. It recently made a journey of more than a hundred miles.

## MACHINE FISHES FOR CABLES.

A truly wonderful piece of mechanism is the "picking-up" machine used in all grappling and cable hoisting operations in cable laying. It is a powerful variety of the steam winch family, but also a most aristocratic and elaborate member, fitted with gear changing clutches, patent brakes, and other ingenious appliances. To give some idea of its capabilities, it can at slow speed lift twenty-five tons at

a rate of one mile per hour, or, at a fast speed, ten tons at the rate of four miles per hour.

All being made ready, the big grapple, attached to 750 or 800 fathoms of chain and rope, is passed over the bow sheave or pulley, and as soon as it reaches bottom the ship is sent slowly ahead. Backward and forward across the path of the cable, as pointed out by the friendly

marking buoys, the vessel steams. Several times the grapple catches something, only to lose it hold again—probably an inequality upon the bottom—but at last comes a steady strain. Every soul on board hangs over the bow, watching the grimy grapple rope come steadily up and over the well-oiled pulley. At length the grapple itself appears, holding tight on to the truant.

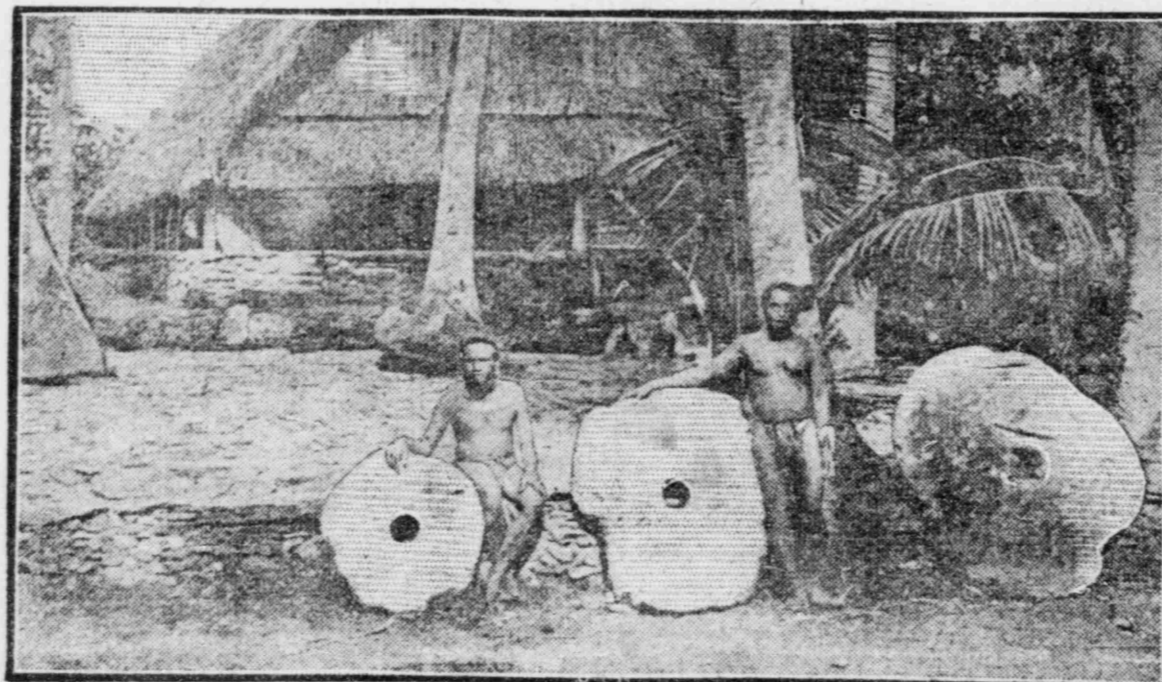
## COINS TWELVE FEET IN DIAMETER.

The most remarkable money in the world is used on the island of Yap, in the Caroline group. Three pieces of it are shown in the accompanying picture, each of them being a single coin, perforated through the middle. Coins of this kind

are sometimes as much as twelve feet in diameter and vary in value according to their size.

They are circular slabs of limestone, and form a most unwieldy medium of exchange. A man who had extensive business debts to meet would need a

whole fleet of canoes, or, perhaps, ten yoke of bullocks and a wagon, to transport his specie. Generally speaking, however, this stone money is not moved about to any extent, the great disks or wheels being kept outside the houses of the rich men.



## PRESIDENT'S GIANT PEACHES.



President Roosevelt was recently the recipient of an immense box of unusually fine peaches. These were sent from Elbert, near Carlsbad, New Mexico, and on the box was the inscription, "Carlsbad's Compliments to President Roosevelt, the Great Friend of Arid America and National Irrigation." This fine fruit was gathered from a tree of the Elberta variety, growing in the orchard of R. M. Love. The product of

these trees is out of the ordinary, and this particular tree, the largest and most prolific in the orchard, was appropriately named "Teddy's Tree." The fruit was ten inches in circumference, and averaged "one peach to a pound," and was grown under irrigation. This illustration shows "Teddy's Tree," with Mr. Love seated near the trunk, and the large box in four compartments ready for shipment.

## TINNED FROGS.

Each year sees new inventions to aid the angler, some sportsmanlike and some unsportsmanlike.

An enthusiast has devised a process for pickling live minnows. He gets them in bushels and soaks them in his preparation. They do not lose their substance or color and are as tough as leather.

He puts them up in squat glass bottles securely sealed, containing from twelve to twenty minnows, according to size, and sells them at a lower rate than is paid for live minnows at the fishing resorts.

Some anglers object to them because they are dead, but minnows which are put upon the hook alive only live a little while, indeed, if the strongest chub be fastened and sunk or cast in cold

water, it will be dead inside of five minutes, and from that time until it is taken from the barbs by a successful forager the angler continues to fish with a dead lure.

The inventor, of course, makes a secret of his process, but a chemist ought to be able to detect it without trouble. When this is done there will be no reason why an angler should not put up his bait in the autumn and keep it over until the spring, taking the water in June supplied fully with minnows in bottles, frogs in tins and dragon flies laid away in layers.

These things will prove a great convenience, as it is often difficult to get frogs or minnows at the resorts, and the inexperienced man who goes out to catch them for himself is apt to have only his labor for his reward.

## China Fiddles.

The latest invention in the domain of ceramics is the manufacture of violins and mandolins from porcelain. A well-known manufacturer of the Meissen earthenware and porcelain organs has invented a process for the manufacture of violins and mandolins from clay. Some violins have already been completed, and the inventor has applied for letters patent for the same in different countries.

Under this process the violins are cast, and every violin is guaranteed a success and to be unexcelled for producing music. The latter quality constitutes precisely the chief value of this invention. The porcelain body, it is claimed, is better able to produce sound than a wooden one, since it co-operates in the production of sound, making the notes soft and full.

## Dead Asked to Act.

Some physicians were recently discussing the question whether a person who had been guillotined continued to suffer after his head had been cut off, and at last one of them said that there was a very simple way of learning the truth.

"A man who has been guillotined," he explained, "cannot talk and answer questions, for he has lost his head, but a bell can be put into his hand and he can be requested to ring it if he really suffers after the execution has taken place. This is a simple request and no one of ordinary intelligence will refuse to comply with it. All that is necessary is for a few physicians to call on the condemned man before he is guillotined and to explain what they want him to do."

## SLEEPING IN PIECES.

ARE you aware that you are a sort of perambulating metal mine? Man—and, indeed, nearly all kinds of living animals—has in his system a considerable quantity of iron. It is found in the more important organs, and there should also be a good deal in the blood. Babies possess a fairly large stock of iron, nearly three times as much, comparatively speaking, as adults.

Then in your bones there is a very large quantity of that metallic base of lime called calcium, while phosphorus is also present in bones in so large an amount that they are the main source of the world's supply of that valuable article.

Stranger still, there is in the human body quite an appreciable amount of arsenic. What there is of this poison is concentrated in the thyroid gland; and a small quantity is also to be found in the skin, hair, nails, and also in the bones and brain.

There are lots of odd things about our human frames which even doctors and other men of science have only lately discovered, and of which the average person is quite unaware. Few people know, for instance, that when we go to sleep the whole body does not sink into insensibility at the same moment.

According to the researches of the French physiologist Cabanis, it is the muscles of the legs and arms which lose their power first. Next, those which support the head; and thirdly, the muscles which sustain the back. So, too, with the senses. The sense of sight sleeps first, then the sense of taste, and next the sense of smell. Hearing goes fourth, and last of all the sense of touch.

Probably you imagine that your pulse always beats with the same rapidity. This is quite a mistake. Your pulse varies with the temperature. There is a regular, annual rhythm which may be represented by something like a regular curve. Most curious of all, the annual rhythms of the pulse in men and women are quite different. A man's pulse beats more strongly in winter and fades to a minimum in summer. Woman's pulse, on the contrary, displays a winter minimum and a summer maximum.

Behind the bridge of your nose is a little cavity in the skull, the origin of which appears to be unknown. It probably was a gland consisting of two tiny lobes joined together, and is named the Sella turcica. Physiologists believe that this is the remains of a sixth sense which was of practical value to our antediluvian ancestors. But whether it enabled them to see in the dark in days before they possessed fire, or helped them to find their way through trackless forests, as wild beasts can today, or what other purpose it may have served, we do not, and probably never shall, know.

There is an unsolved mystery in the ear of every human being. The function of certain portions of the inner ear is not understood, but merely guessed at.

Within the ear are three small globe-shaped protuberances. These have their inner sides covered with small cells, each of which contains a tiny hair surrounded by a fluid. When you move sharply the hairs follow the motion, while the lymph naturally moves less rapidly. Thus the hairs are bent in a direction opposite to that of the movement, and by means of delicate nerves the irritation thus produced is telegraphed direct to the brain.